

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An interior window covering frame assembly comprising:

an elongate core substrate configured to frame at least a portion of a window opening, wherein said elongate core substrate comprises a thickness of less than 5/16 inch, said elongate core substrate ~~having comprising an elongate~~ lateral plate perpendicularly coupled to and an elongate flange transverse to said lateral plate, wherein said elongate lateral plate is configured to be coupled in a parallel fashion to an adjacent wall, and wherein said elongate flange is configured to extend out from said wall and to retain a hinge that is coupled to a window covering; and

said window covering coupled to said elongate core substrate such that a portion of said window covering frame assembly is concealed, and wherein said elongate flange is configured to retain at least a portion of said window covering.

2. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said substrate comprises at least one material having an elastic modulus greater than 2.3E.

3. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said substrate is formed of material selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, metal, graphite and reinforced plastic.

4. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said flange is configured to retain a hinge attached to said window covering.

5. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame assembly of claim 1, further comprising a decorative covering coupled to said substrate.

6. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame assembly of claim 5, wherein said decorative covering comprises a material selected from the group consisting of wood, plastic, wood composite, cloth and paint.

7. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame assembly of claim 1, wherein said window covering comprises a shutter.

8. (currently amended) An interior window covering frame assembly comprising:

an elongate core substrate having a thickness less than 5/16 inch and comprising at least one material having an elastic modulus greater than 2.3E, said elongate core substrate having comprising an elongate lateral plate perpendicularly coupled to and an elongate flange transverse to said lateral plate, wherein said elongate lateral plate is configured to be coupled in a parallel fashion to an adjacent wall, and wherein said elongate flange is configured to extend out from said wall and to retain a hinge that is coupled to a decorative window covering;

a connecting channel coupled to a length of said lateral plate and to said flange, wherein said connecting channel is configured to be coupled to a perpendicularly oriented connecting channel along a second elongate lateral plate;

a window covering coupled to said substrate; and

said decorative window covering coupled applied to at least a portion of said elongate core substrate, wherein said decorative window covering conceals said portion of said core substrate.

9. (currently amended) The interior window covering frame assembly of claim 8, wherein a cross-sectional shape of said substrate corresponds to a shape ~~selected from the group consisting of an L, a T and a Z.~~

10. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said substrate is formed of material selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, metal, graphite and reinforced plastic.

11. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said decorative covering comprises a material selected from the group consisting of wood, plastic, wood composite, cloth and paint.

12. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame assembly of claim 8, wherein said window covering comprises a shutter.

13. (currently amended) An interior window covering frame system comprising:

a window having an associated window jamb and adjacent wall;

a frame substrate configured to frame at least a portion of an opening of said window, said substrate comprising a lateral plate and a flange ~~transverse~~perpendicularly coupled to said lateral plate, wherein said lateral plate is configured to be coupled in a parallel fashion to said adjacent wall, and wherein said flange is configured to extend out from said wall and to retain a hinge that is coupled to a decorative window covering, said substrate being configured to be mounted to at least one of said window jamb and said adjacent wall, said frame substrate having a thickness of less than 5/16 inch and comprising at least one material having an elastic modulus greater than 2.3E;

at least one connecting channel coupled to said frame substrate wherein said connecting channel is configured to be coupled to a perpendicularly oriented connecting channel along a second elongate lateral plate;

a window covering coupled to said frame substrate; and

said decorative window covering applied-coupled to said frame substrate to substantially conceal at least a portion of said frame substrate.

14. (currently amended) The interior window covering frame system of claim 13, wherein a cross-sectional shape of said frame substrate corresponds to a shape ~~selected from the group consisting of an L, a T and a Z.~~

15. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame system of claim 13, wherein said frame substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, metal, graphite and reinforced plastic.

16. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame system of claim 13, wherein said decorative covering comprises a material selected from the group consisting of wood, plastic, wood composite, cloth and paint.

17. (previously presented) The interior window covering frame system of claim 13, wherein said window covering comprises a shutter.

18. (currently amended) A method for anchoring an interior window covering adjacent an interior window having a window jamb and an adjacent wall, said method comprising:

providing a frame substrate that comprises a thickness of less than 5/16 inch and has , by volume, an elastic modulus greater than wood, and wherein said substrate further comprises a lateral plate and a flange ~~transverse~~perpendicularly coupled to said lateral plate;

coupling ~~to~~ said frame substrate to one of a window jamb and an adjacent wall surface, wherein said lateral plate is coupled in a parallel fashion to said adjacent wall, and wherein said flange is positioned to extend out from said adjacent wall and has a depth sufficient to accommodate a hinge attached to said interior window covering;

using ~~an~~ a connecting channel to interconnect a first portion of said frame substrate with a second portion of said frame substrate; and

coupling said connecting channel to a perpendicularly oriented connecting channel along a second elongate lateral plate;

attaching said hinge of said interior window covering to said flange; and

using said flange to retain said hinge that is coupled to said interior window covering.